CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-24 (canceled)

25. (previously presented) An element having high mechanical strength and high vibration absorption comprising:

an internal core composed of at least [[one]] two discrete elongated pultruded core ~~member~~ members capable of relative longitudinal displacement and constituted of at least one first material consisting of a thermoplastic resin in which a plurality of natural and/or synthetic fibers are embedded and having predominantly high mechanical characteristics, said core members extending alongside one another over a full length of said element, and at least one second material with predominantly highly elastic characteristics chemically bonded to the first material without the use of adhesives of both of said core members and bridging between said core members to form a bearing therebetween allowing small relative longitudinal displacement of the core members; and

a layer covering said core.

26. (previously presented) The element defined in claim 25 wherein said fibers are composed at least in part of glass fiber.

27. (previously presented) The element defined in claim 26 wherein said second material is an elastomeric polymer.

28. (previously presented) The element defined in claim 27 wherein said thermoplastic resin is engineered polyurethane thermoplastic polymer (ETPU).

29. (previously presented) The element defined in claim 27 wherein said second material is composed of thermoplastic polyurethane.

30. (previously presented) The element defined in claim 29 wherein said layer is an elastomeric polymer.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The element defined in claim [[31]] 25 wherein said members are rod-shaped or disk-shaped.

33. (previously presented) The element defined in claim 32 wherein said members are rod-shaped and each have at least one flat surface and one curved surface, said bearing being inserted between and bonded to flat surfaces of said members.

34. (previously presented) The element defined in claim 33 in the form of a handle for a hand tool.

35. (Currently amended) A method of making an element with high mechanical strength and high vibration absorption, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming at by pultrusion least two discrete elongated members of a length capable of extending along an entire length of said element and relatively displaceable in a longitudinal direction, said elongated members being [[and]] composed of a first material having predominantly high mechanical characteristics and comprising a thermoplastic resin in which a plurality of natural and/or synthetic fibers are embedded;

(b) inserting between said members and automatically bonding thereto by chemical bonding without the use of an adhesive a bearing of at least a second material having predominantly highly elastic characteristics whereby said members and said bearing form a core said bearing permitting small longitudinal displacements of said members; and

(c) coating said core with at least one third material.

36. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim 35 wherein the bonding of the first material and the second material is effected by the application of heat ~~and without the use of an adhesive~~.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim [[37]] 36 wherein said fibers include glass fibers.

39. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 38 wherein said second material is a thermoplastic polyurethane.

40. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 39 wherein said thermoplastic resin is engineered polyurethane thermoplastic polymer (EPTU).

41. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 40 wherein said third material is composed of an elastomeric polymer.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim [[42]] 41 wherein said core is shaped at least in part by coextrusion at a temperature sufficient to bond said first and second material together.

44. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 43, further comprising the step of thermoforming said third material to shape said element into an ergonomic shape.